IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended)   An Internet Box Office (IBO) system adapted to vend multimedia digital content via a computer network to a consumer, the IBO system comprising:

a content delivery networking (CDN) infrastructure of the computer network, the CDN infrastructure including deployment enhancements that download the multimedia digital content over the network, wherein the deployment enhancements pre-acquire and distribute ~~include one or more devices that cache~~ portions of the multimedia digital content;

a viewing system coupled to the deployment enhancements of the CDN infrastructure and ~~separate from~~ external to an environment associated with the deployment enhancements, the viewing system capable of displaying the multimedia digital content to the consumer;

a digital rights management (DRM) system coupled to the viewing system, the DRM system functioning to authorize the multimedia digital content for viewing by the consumer; and

a digital content management system configured to store the multimedia digital content in encrypted form, the digital content management system interacting with the deployment enhancements of the CDN infrastructure to schedule delivery of the encrypted content to the viewing system upon authorization by the DRM system, and wherein that dynamically decrypts the encrypted content based on authorization received from the DRM.

2. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of Claim 1 further comprising a web server coupled to the viewing system and configured to organize titles of the multimedia digital content for browsing by the consumer when selecting the multimedia digital content.

3. (Currently Amended)   An Internet Box Office (IBO) system for vending digital content via a computer network to a consumer, the IBO system comprising:

a viewing system, the viewing system being in electronic communication with the computer network and the viewing system having a user interface;

a movie management system in electronic communication with the viewing system through the computer network, the movie management system having a play list manager, the

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play list manager having a list of titles of the digital content available for viewing and selecting through the user interface, and wherein the movie management system interacts with one or more ~~caching~~ devices, which are in an external environment to the viewing system, for pre-acquiring and distributing ~~delivering~~ encrypted digital content to the viewing system and the caching devices are separate from the viewing system;

a rights management system for granting a right to view a selected digital content, which is encrypted, represented by the title selected through the movie management system, the right to view being granted by downloading to the viewing system a decryption key enabling decryption of the selected encrypted digital content; and

a display for viewing the selected encrypted digital content which is downloaded from the movie management system to the viewing system, the download is scheduled and the selected digital content being dynamically decrypted, through use of the decryption key downloaded from the right management system to the viewing system, so that no decrypted version of the selected encrypted digital content is stored on the viewing system.

4. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 3, the rights management system further comprising: a billing system for accepting payment through the viewing system for the right to view, the billing system having the capability of applying a discount if the consumer has agreed to view digital content in addition to the selected digital content.

5. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 3 wherein the digital content further comprises: interactive digital content, movies, ads, and trailers.

6. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 3 further comprising: the viewing system receives from the movie management system and displays to the consumer information about the status of the digital content being downloaded.

7. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 3 further comprising: the rights management system protects the decryption key during a fixed length of time and ensures that the decryption key expires after the fixed length of time.

8. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 3 further comprising: the rights management system provides usage tools for controlling interfaces between the consumer and the digital content, and tracking tools for use and distribution of the digital content.

9. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 3 further comprising: secure and managed communication through the computer network to protect the rights of an owner of the digital content.

10. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 3 further comprising: a policy management process for leasing the digital content, a monitoring process for monitoring adherence to the lease of the digital content, and a purging process for erasing the downloaded digital content when the lease expires.

11. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 3 further comprising: the movie management system has a plurality of movie studio web servers.

12. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 11 further comprising: the movie studio web servers are located at a plurality of web sites.

13. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 12 further comprising: the movie management system cooperates with the viewing system to optimally schedule downloading of the selected digital content from the movie studio web servers based on consumer directions.

14. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 12 further comprising: a web content acceleration system that accelerates the downloading of the digital content from the movie management system to the viewing system by using a cache local to the viewing system.

15. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 14 further comprising: the web content acceleration system intercepts requests from the consumer for the selected digital content, retrieves the selected digital content from the movie management system, caches the selected digital content, and forwards the selected digital content to the viewing system.

16. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 12 wherein the web content acceleration system comprises: at least one cache located as physically close as possible to the viewing system to which the download is destined.

17. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 3 further comprising: a screen saver function wherein the consumer can view a trailer during screen saver time on the viewing system and initiate downloading a movie associated with the trailer.

18. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 3, further comprising:
        the digital content is copyrighted;
        a managed storage system for storing the encrypted digital content on the viewing system in encrypted form to prevent unauthorized copying of the copyrighted digital content.

19. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 3 further comprising: a feature permitting the consumer to choose a time at which to view the downloaded digital content.

20. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 3 further comprising: a downloading convoy, the download convoy responds to a download request from the movie management system to download the selected digital content to a plurality of consumers.

21. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 3 further comprising: a download manager which automatically resumes an interrupted download operation.

22. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 3 further comprising: portions of the selected encrypted digital content are queued so that the computer network substantially maintains its pre-download performance.

23. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 3 further comprising: an access tracking process to track the consumer's access to trailers and allow the consumer to specify a maximum number of the trailers to download for each movie downloaded.

24. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 3 further comprising: the user interface is a web browser.

25. (Previously Presented)   The IBO system of claim 3 further comprising: provision to accommodate streaming video media.

26. (Currently Amended)   A method of operating an Internet Box Office (IBO) system for vending digital content via a computer network to a consumer using a viewing system, comprising:

accessing a computer network through the viewing system;

browsing, through a play list manager in electronic communication through the computer network with the viewing system, a list of titles of the digital content available for viewing;

selecting, from the play list manager, a title for viewing;

granting a right to view the title by a rights management system;

scheduling a download from a movie management system to the viewing system the selected digital content for which the rights management system has granted the right to view, the selected digital content in encrypted form and downloading the digital content when scheduled to do so, and wherein the movie management system interacts with deployment enhancements that ~~perform caching~~ are in a separate environment from the viewing system and which pre-acquire and distribute the selected digital content to the viewing system; ~~and the deployment enhancements are separate from the viewing system;~~

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downloading to the viewing system from the rights management system a decryption key associated with the selected digital content that enables dynamic decryption of the selected digital content so that no decrypted version of the selected digital content is stored on the viewing system; and

viewing on the viewing system the selected digital content.

27. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 26 wherein the step of browsing comprises: accessing at least one web server that contains a list of titles of the digital content available for viewing.

28. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 26 wherein the step of selecting the title further comprises: adding the title selected to a running list of selections.

29. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 26 further comprising

paying the rights management system for a right to view selected digital content.

30. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 29 further comprising: paying for the title selected through the play list manager.

31. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 29 further comprising: paying for a plurality of titles selected by the consumer.

32. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 29 further wherein the step of paying for the right to view the content further comprises:

finalizing a running list of selections, registering the selected digital content with the rights management system, calculating a price, and applying a discount to the price if the consumer agrees to view other content that warrants the discount.

33. (Currently Amended)   A method for use of an Internet Box Office (IBO) system for vending copyright-protected multimedia digital content via a computer network to a consumer,

the IBO system having a viewing system, a digital rights management system, and a digital content management system, the method comprising:

finding and selecting, through cooperation of the viewing system and the digital content management system, multimedia digital content for playing back;

scheduling a downloaded encrypted multimedia digital content from the digital content management system to the viewing system and downloading the digital content when scheduled to do so, and wherein a least a portion of the digital content is supplied from ~~cache of~~ a ~~caching~~ device during the download, wherein the device is in a separate environment from the viewing system and the device pre-acquires and distributes the portion of the digital content to the viewing system; and

displaying to the consumer, through the cooperation of the viewing system and the digital rights management system, the copyright-protected multimedia digital content as the digital content is dynamically decrypted, and no decrypted version of the digital content is saved on the viewing system.

34. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 33 further comprising

presenting, through cooperation of the digital content management system and the viewing system, download status information;

detecting of, and automatic restarting after, a download interruption; and

notifying the consumer of the download interruption and new availability time for the digital content.

35. (Previously Presented)   A node for carrying out the method according to claim 33.

36. (Previously Presented)   A communications network comprising: at least one node for carrying out the method according to claim 33.

37. (Previously Presented)   A computer-readable medium comprising: instructions and data written thereon, said instructions and data containing information for the practice of the method according to claim 33.

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38. (Previously Presented)   Electromagnetic signals traveling over a computer network comprising: said electromagnetic signals carrying information for the practice of the method of claim 33.